

Administrative
Comptroller Records
Tax Adjudications
Title & Survey

342-4578
342-4587
342-4580
342-4669



General Leasing
Surface Leasing
Rights of Ways
Permits

342-4583
342-4584
342-4584
342-4600

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION
STATE LAND OFFICE

DENNIS STINE
COMMISSIONER

January 8, 1992

Vardiacce Goston
Empress of the Washitaw
P.O. Box 1051
Columbia, La. 71418

Re: Malson Rouge Grant
1848 Tax Adjudications
Ouachita Parish, La.

Dear Ms. Goston:

On January 8, 1992, you requested that cancellations be issued relative to adjudications for unpaid property taxes for the year 1848 in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, in the names of:

Daniel W. Cox
Wycoff & Harrison
G. W. Turner
C. G. Pearshey
Suc. Henry Turner
Henry Turner
Sarah Tyler
Coff & Harrison
Eliza Qiltman

10,000 Acres Malson Rouge Grant
16,000 Acres Malson Rouge Grant
10,000 Acres Malson Rouge Grant
2,800 Acres Malson Rouge Grant
1,928 Acres Malson Rouge Grant
5,519 Acres Malson Rouge Grant
5,600 Acres Malson Rouge Grant
16,000 Acres Malson Rouge Grant
1,036 Acres Malson Rouge Grant

Total 68,883 Acres

Article X, Section 20 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1921 states:

Whenever any immovable property shall have been forfeited or adjudicated to the state for the nonpayment of taxes due prior to January 1st, 1880, and the state shall not have sold or disposed of same, nor disposed of the tax debtor, or his heirs, successors or assigns, prior to the adoption of this Constitution, it shall be conclusively presumed that such forfeiture or adjudication was irregular and null, or that the property has been redeemed;

RECEIVED

OCT 04 1996

DIV. OF ADMINISTRATION
STATE LAND OFFICE

not mail pay

FREE HER LAND!

Woman who claims 3 million acres of America belong to Blacks holds annual confab

A Black nationalist group, which charges that nearly 3 million acres of land within the boundaries of the continental United States legally belong to Black people and are not a part of America, will convene a national conference to address the issue, June 21-23 at the Days Inn, Magnolia Room, Monroe, La.

The three-day conference entitled, *The 1996 International Indigenous Peoples Conference* will highlight the collective rights and ancestral heritage of the heirs of this land which encompasses a large portion of Louisiana, and parts of Arkansas and Mississippi.

In a 1991 interview with *Capital Spotlight*, Vedia Goston of "Ouchita," Louisiana, and convener of the upcoming conference, presented official documents, dating back to the early 1800s, which showed that a race of Black people had inhabited exactly 2,961,983.5 acres of land in the Louisiana area before it was settled by the Spanish. Her research also uncovered government documents which indicated that this huge mass of land, because it belonged to Blacks who already lived there, was not included in the sale of land in that region by the Spanish or the French; nor was it included in the subsequent Louisiana Purchase of 1803 when the French sold the area to the United States.

"My ancestors were called Pre-Columbian people, the Black, bushy-headed people that history documents were here when the White man first arrived in America," Goston said in the interview.

She said because the land was already inhabited by her ancestors, the Spanish did not cede it after their settlers arrived and when they later sold the land in that region to the French, it was done with the stipulation that the sale did not include the land belonging to the Pre-Columbians which she said was referred to as the "Neutral Strip."

Likewise, when the French sold the land in the Louisiana Purchase to the United States it too was done with the same stipulation. But Goston said the U.S. Government did not honor the agreement and moved on the land.

"The United States knows good and well that they did not buy the Neutral Strip," said Goston. She contends and

can show historical documents that reveal that the battle for the land has gone as far as the U.S. Supreme Court—with the nation's highest court ruling in the 1848 case: *The United States vs. Henry Turner's Heirs* that the Neutral Strip isn't a part of the United States.

Goston said the Henry Turner is her great, great, great, grandfather and produced a copy of every marriage license from the early 1800s until today to prove her ancestry.

"Since that land was documented to be ours in 1848, then

I have a right to it," she said. "The U.S. lost the land in its own court."

Goston said the United States managed to maintain its hold on the land because shortly after the Supreme Court decision "adult males in my family began to meet with unexpected deaths." She said this has remained the case throughout the years as her father was murdered and in 1979 her husband was shot in the head and killed.

See Land, page 20

LAND, FROM PAGE 3

"I'm willing to forget that because I can't bring the dead back," Goston explained. "But for future generations, I want to make sure we have our land."

Goston said she began the search for records to prove ownership of the land at the request of her grandmother who live until she was a 116.

"I have spent 20 years of my life looking for documents, searching for the truth of it," she explained. "I have found the documents and now is the time for Black people to know. I promised my grandmother I would do it."

Goston, who is now legally blind, says the government has never been able to prove that the Neutral Strip is part of the United States despite numerous requests. In addition, she has a copy of a 1940 study by the Louisiana Department of Transportation in which their report concludes that the Strip is "definitely not included in the territory ceded to the United States." Goston has filed reclamation papers with the U.S. Dept. of Interior, to no avail, asking for a return of the land she says should belong to all Blacks in America.

"The land is for me, my family and the Black people who want to be on that land," she said. "It's their right to be on that land." In addition to asking for the land's return, Goston is also seeking from the U.S. government \$45 per acre for every year since 1803, the year the U.S. has occupied the land—a sum of well over \$6 Quadrillion.

"I know we need reparations and I'm for it," she said. "But this is something we don't have to ask for. This is ours."

AMERICA'S MOST PROGRESSIVE BLACK NEWSPAPER

Goston, who says she has conducted much of her 20-year search secretly, now lives in fear in Louisiana and was once severely beaten.

"I'm not allowed to have utilities. I live behind bars and bullet proof glass. I've had every kind of threat imaginable." However, she concludes: "I'm coming as peace-loving person. I don't have a gun; I'm not threatening anybody or anything. I am not a threat to the United States. I'm just asking them to kindly do what they signed to do."

HOTEL, FROM PAGE 6

the proposed Miami Beach project.

But construction of one black-owned hotel in Miami Beach won't have much economic impact in the local black community, others argued.

The hotel won't revitalize a black neighborhood or necessarily attract black consumers, said T. Willard Fair, president of the Urban League of Greater Miami.

"It's significant only with those black investors if they make a lot of money. That would be great. But there's no dancing in the streets of Overtown or Liberty City," Fair said.

The City Commission vote changed a preliminary ranking last month that had placed cable TV entrepreneur Eugene Jackson in the lead. Jackson's Hyatt proposal involves a \$56 million, 15-story tower at the northern edge of Collins Avenue.

But he dropped to second place following published reports about his feuds with the Internal Revenue Service over a \$3.9 million federal tax lien and other liens on his low-income rental projects in south Dade County.

Ranked third is Baltimore developer Otis Warren, who proposed a \$43.9 million Wyndham Resorts project.

Peebles, the frontrunner, wants to build a 15-story, twin-tower hotel.

But if negotiations with Peebles fall through, the city would move to its second choice.

The project would mark the second major hotel to be built in Miami Beach in more than 30 years. The first is the Lowe Miami Beach Hotel, a 17-story, 700-room building that will be the new headquarters of the Miami Beach Convention Center. The project also involves restoration of adjacent St. Moritz Hotel.



FRAMING AS ART

CUSTOM FRAMING • COLLECTABLES • FINE PRINTS



By Appointment Only
(202) 543-4163



Rose Lewis
Director